

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Weeks 12-15, 2010

The Easter Recess spanned two of the weeks since my last report. I also participated in the Presidential Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the recess, six meetings of the Permanent Council, a joint FSC-PC meeting, another FSC meeting, meetings of the Asian Contact Group, of the ambassadorial working group on the Corfu Process, of the Preparatory Committee and of many of the other committees, took place. Highlights were the address by the UN SG Ban-Ki Moon to the PC, as well as the intensive discussions about the crisis in Kyrgyzstan. Nikolay Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the CSTO, also addressed the PC.

The PC finally decided on the topic and dates for the Human Dimension events (Seminar on May 17-19 and HDIM September 27-October 8, both in Warsaw), on the ASRC (June 14-16 in Vienna), and to extend the mandate of the current External Auditor, the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine, for another two years. The PC held several debates on the situation in Kyrgyzstan and the activities of the Chairmanship and of the Secretariat in this regard. In three statements – one by Marc Carillet and two by me, we referred to the statements by the PA President and the activities of his Special Envoy Akhmetov, stressing the readiness of the PA to lend its support to finding solutions to some of the most urgent problems.

The informal Corfu Meeting, which lasted more than five hours, started to debate eleven food-for-thought papers dealing with the Third Dimension. Turkmenistan contended that the Corfu Process has not served its original purpose in building confidence between member countries, because there was no readiness to take into account the concerns of all countries equally. In a constructive paper, Belarus, among other things, proposed an OSCE Association or Network of Election Officials, in order to establish a structured dialogue on best practices. Russia put forward a detailed 11-point plan.

The first meeting of the renewed Working Group on Legal Personality did not bring about a rapprochement between those who do not want the Draft Convention which has already been agreed upon in principle to be approved without a simultaneous approval of a statute ("Charter") of the OSCE (mainly Belarus and Russia) and those who are opposed to a Charter (the U.S.A.). The large majority would accept discussing a draft Charter, but urge for a quick adoption of the Convention. It became again clear that without a Convention issues of personal liabilities of the persons participating in the decision-making in the PC and in the Secretariat/Institutions might one day lead to serious consequences.

I briefed the new US ambassador to the OSCE, Ian Kelly, on issues relevant for PA-PC Cooperation. I also conveyed the PA's condolences to the Permanent Mission of Poland.



Ambassador
April 19, 2010